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All praises and thanks be to GOD, who alone, created the heavens and the earth and originated the peace and the light. He increases in creation what He wills. Verily, GOD is able to do all things.

To Mousa and Setareh

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The picture in the front cover illustrates the two conformations α and β of Cinchona thiourea catalyst complexed to the solvent molecules (dimethylformamide), which have rather different VCD spectra shown in red and black respectively. Conformation β complexed to the solvent molecules not only reduces the whole energy profile of the reaction, but causes more discrimination (than conformation α) between the transition barriers of the R and S configurations in the C-C coupling step of the Henry reaction.

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